

asylum is urgently required for the middle classes in Ireland, its financial success would be certain, and it is surely incumbent on the trustees of Swift's great charity that they should make it what he would have desired—the best possible.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM PROFESSOR SIKORSKY.

In the JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE for January last, at page 174, I find a notice of my article on the *self-immured*. Although it was there translated from the *Revue Scientifique*, it was originally published in Russia in the journal of which I am editor—viz. *Voprosi Nerвно-psychitscheckoi Medisin*. It is regularly sent to you, and is acknowledged in the list of your exchange journals.

[This letter from Professor Sikorsky gives us opportunity of directing attention to the Russian journals regularly received by us, and of inviting correspondents to undertake the translation of articles of interest in these periodicals.—Eds.]

SIR JOHN SIBBALD.

We have to congratulate Sir John Sibbald on the honour of knighthood which has crowned the work which he has accomplished as Commissioner in Lunacy for Scotland. His professional career in the Edinburgh Royal Asylum and the Argyll District Asylum was continued for nearly thirty years in connection with the General Board of Lunacy. We rejoice that his valuable services to the insane have been thus recognised on his retiring into private life, and wish him long and happy days.

OBITUARY.

OCTAVIUS JEPSON, M.D.St. And., M.R.C.S.Eng., L.S.A.

Dr. Jepson was the eighth son (fourteenth child) of the late Mr. George Jepson, surgeon, of Gainsborough, and grandson of the Rev. George Jepson, prebendary of Lincoln Cathedral. He was born on July 24th, 1832, was educated privately at Newark and Southwell, and subsequently studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh. In 1858 he graduated as M.D. St. Andrews and obtained the English qualifications of M.R.C.S. and L.S.A.

In 1860 he was appointed an Assistant Medical Officer of the Middlesex County Asylum, Hanwell, and in 1862 was elected Medical Superintendent of St. Luke's Hospital, London, E.C. Towards the close of 1864 the Aldermen of the City of London decided to advertise for a Medical Superintendent for their asylum, then in course of construction at Stone, near Dartford, and after close competition Dr. Jepson was chosen from a large number of candidates, and entered into residence with the opening of the Institution in April, 1866. On the completion of twenty-one years' service he resigned in April, 1887, and was granted a pension of £800 a year (two-thirds pay and emoluments) by quarter sessions of the City of London, which pension he enjoyed for twelve years in quiet retirement at Sydenham, devoting himself to his extensive garden and books.

During the late spring and early summer months of each year he was to be seen at Margate, looking the picture of health, and apparently with a long span of life before him, but about eighteen months ago he began to flag, and developed cataract which progressively affected both eyes. He was present at the laying of the foundation stone of the new chapel at the City of London Asylum on June 18th last, and was then contemplating an operation; this, however, he had not undergone

when on May 5th he succumbed suddenly to a ruptured aneurism of the aorta. At the time of his decease he was Master of the Founders' Company, upon the livery of which he had been many years.

Dr. Jepson was one of the old School of Medical Superintendents, now rapidly dying out, and at the City Asylum was possessed of almost autocratic powers. He kept himself in more active touch with the patients individually than is possible at the present time, owing to the increased office work entailed by the Lunacy Acts, 1890 and 1891, and was held in affectionate regard by the older patients. He was somewhat tall in stature, with refined features, cultured manners, and good address. During his term of office the death-rate at the City Asylum was remarkably low, never once reaching the average asylum death-rate, and the recovery rate was about that of other asylums.

His early life had infused into him a love of country sports, and for many years he hunted once a week with the West Kent Foxhounds, and at one time indulged in shooting. He was buried on May 10th in the churchyard at Stone beside his wife and three children, who had predeceased him by upwards of a quarter of a century. At the graveside, in addition to the members of the family and several old residents of the district, were congregated the present medical superintendent (Dr. Ernest White) and the old members of the staff, also several pensioners of the service who have been liberally treated by the Visiting Committee in return for good and faithful work. Dr. Jepson leaves two daughters to mourn their loss.

JOHN EUSTACE, M.D.

We regret to record the death of an old member of our Association, Dr. Eustace, of the Hampstead and Highfield Private Asylums, Dublin, which took place at his residence, Elmhurst, on the 4th May, in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

He had been for some time in frail health. The death, in 1894, of his eldest son and assistant, Dr. John Eustace, jun., a young man of the greatest promise, was a severe blow to him, from which indeed he never quite recovered. The immediate cause of death was cardiac failure following upon influenza.

The establishments over which Dr. Eustace presided are among the oldest of their kind in Ireland. The undertaking was started in 1825 by Drs. Richard Grattan, Isaac Ryall, and Eustace, the father of our subject. The latter took over the property in 1857 in conjunction with his younger brother, the late Dr. Marcus Eustace, on whose death several years ago he became the sole proprietor. He was a man who, outside his own professional work, in which he was eminently successful, was engaged in many humanitarian and charitable undertakings. He was an energetic guardian of the poor. He was a member of the old Board of Governors of the Public Asylum for the Dublin District, in the working of which he was deeply interested. He was an assiduous and liberal promoter of the Syrian Asylum at Mount Lebanon. He was an ardent apostle of temperance. He was proud to belong to the Society of Friends, a body which has done so much charitable work in general, and has been particularly active in the care of the insane.

Dr. Eustace was a man of warm affections and a strongly-marked character. His sympathy with the insane was earnest and sincere. When he became governor of a public asylum he gave the best of his time and experience to its work, and though full of business of his own, often lay awake many nights in succession, planning improvements and ameliorations in the condition of the poor State-paid patients for whom his responsibility was but remote and fractional. He was probably the oldest alienist in Ireland, and at the meetings of the Irish Division, where he was a constant attendant, the old grey figure of the sturdy yet kindly Quaker will long be missed.

Dr. Henry Eustace succeeds his father in the management of the private asylums, and we are sure that he will faithfully follow in his footsteps.